



MAR 06 2002

SFSP-449

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP): USDA Sponsor Reviews

STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS - Colorado ED, Iowa, Kansas,
(Special Nutrition Programs) Missouri DH, Montana OPI,
Nebraska, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

We have received a request to allow State Agencies (SA) to substitute a USDA review of a sponsor and its sites for a State agency review of that sponsor as required by 7 CFR 225.7(d)(2).

The Mountain Plains Regional Office will allow SAs to count a USDA review of an SFSP sponsor as one of their required reviews, provided that the SA, as usual, assumes all responsibilities associated with resolution of the review findings relating to the administration of the program by the sponsor, including but not limited to any and all appeals arising from the review.

Should an SA choose to count USDA reviews in lieu of required reviews of one or more of its sponsors, the SA is not precluded from conducting its own review of sponsors it determines will benefit from additional assistance and oversight.

We also received a request that SAs be allowed to extend to the sponsor the authority to treat a USDA review of its Program as one of its reviews as required by 7 CFR 225.15(d)(2) and (3). While USDA and SA reviews of sponsors are parallel in nature, i.e. to determine that sponsors have conducted the Program in accordance with all applicable state and federal requirements, the same is not true of the sponsor's review of its own program operations. Therefore, sponsors **may not** count a USDA review of its Program as one of its required reviews. However, this does not preclude a sponsor from accompanying USDA on review and simultaneously completing its own review.

State Agency Directors

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If you have any questions regarding this allowance, please
contact our office at (303) 844-0359.

Gerald Stankoff
for

BRIAN ALLISON
Acting Regional Director
Special Nutrition Programs